

REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated June 18, 2003, has been carefully considered. The present amendment is intended to be a complete reply thereto.

The Examiner alleges that the Preliminary Amendment filed May 21, 2003, is non-compliant because it does not include a clean version and a marked-up version of the amended claim(s). Applicant file herewith the same amendment to be in compliance with the Revised Amendment Format of 37 C.F.R. §1.121, which does not require separate clean version and marked-up version of the amended claim(s). Although the revised format is effective July 30, 2003, the USPTO has made the voluntary revised format available to all applications, except reissue applications and reexamination proceedings, in February 2003. *Sæ* 1267 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 106 (Feb. 25, 2003). Therefore, the present Revised Preliminary Amendment is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121; and examination of the claims is earnestly solicited.

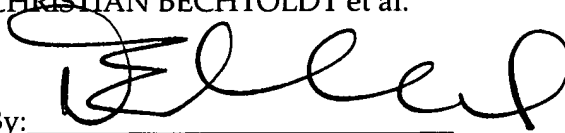
In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney. It is believed that this Amendment is now in compliance with the 37 CFR 1.121 as it now reads.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000020.00017). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this report, Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of

time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

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